



Mililani Hongwanji
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Dharma Connection

May 2023

The Newsletter of Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Volume 46 Issue No. 5



Hanamatsuri
Buddha's Birthday
April 9, 2023



Life of Nembutsu enables us
to appreciate every encounter

Shinran Shonin's Birth

8500

Jodo Shinshu Teaching

Bon Voyage - Japan Bound Attendees!



Baccalaureate
April 30, 2023

May 2023 June 2023

- 7 9:00am Family Dharma Service & Dharma School
(Guest Speaker: Brandon Hee)
- 14 9:00am Family Dharma Service, **No May Joint Memorial Service** (Guest Speaker: Carrie Kawamoto)
- 14 10:15am BWA Meeting
- 21 9:00am Family Dharma Service & Dharma School
(Guest Speaker: Stephen Chinen)
- 28 9:00am **Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin's Birthday)** Family
Dharma Service & Last day of Dharma
School

- 4 9:00am Family Dharma Service
- 11 9:00am Joint Memorial & Family Dharma Service
- 11 10:15am BWA Meeting
- 18 9:00am Family Dharma Service
- 25 9:00am Family Dharma Service



Minister's Message



The Shinsei Gohonden Sahō Preserving the Tradition While Looking to the Future (Part 2)

The 850th Anniversary of the Birth of Shinran Shōnin and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jōdo Shinshū Teachings have finally begun in Kyoto and so far thousands of Shinshu faithful have descended to our Mother Temple to be a part of the celebration.

Two times a day, one is able to see the service via the Nishi Hongwanji's YouTube Channel. I have seen several services, and I encourage you to tune in to see and hear the sights and sounds of this service.

Services at our Mother Temple is always amazing to watch, From the precise movements of the ministers to the entrance of our Spiritual Leader, the chanting, and even the Dharma Message, whether given by one of the ministers, a Hongwanji Scholar, or even our Spiritual Leader Himself.

For several weeks now, we have been going over the components of the service in our Family Dharma Services. It is my hope, that you are taking with you the finer points of the Teachings and also familiarizing yourself to the service.

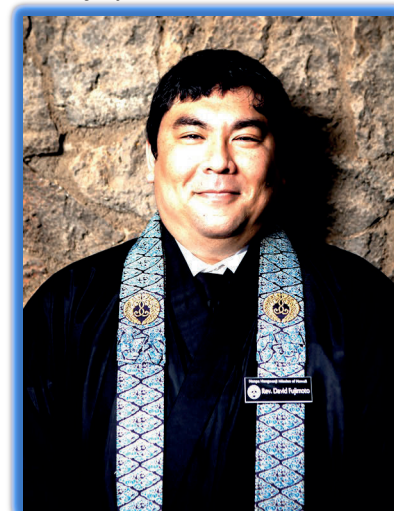
There is a section in the service dedication where the service officiant says:

Humbly, before Amida Buddha, of great compassion and great sympathy and Shinran Shōnin, the Founder of Jōdo Shinshū, respectfully and solemnly, here today, we read the sacred scriptures together with ministers and followers and adorn the altar.

We gather to observe the Commemoration Dharma Service for the 850th birth of Shinran Shōnin and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū.

I find great joy and comfort in these words. This statement fits in well with the 2023 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i's Theme and Slogan, in which together we are able to share in the joy of the Dharma together. The Nembutsu Teachings is made for all of us.

As I write the last sentence above, I am sitting inside of Starbucks and I look around and see everyone going about their business, the baristas at work making drinks while laughing and interacting with their fellow baristas and customers. Whether or not they all feel it or not, as they go about, the Teachings is playing out in each Nembutsu Moment that they are creating for themselves and others. This moment, this fleeting moment, I believe is at the heart of the celebration. The joy of the Dharma that preserves the tradition for us now and looks to the future of changes and optimism.



Rev. David Fujimoto

President's Corner

Greetings Mililani Sangha,

April brought us together to enjoy many traditional as well as new events. May promises to be another banner month for our Sangha and the individuals who are travelling to Japan. Since I will be one of the travelers, the Vice Presidents and the rest of the board will be "in charge" at Mililani. Contact Vice Presidents Kevin, Steve and Brandon. Cliff and Roger and the other directors and advisors will be around to help. Please help them.

We are now gearing up for our Bon Dance on August 18 and 19. Now is the time to call us to volunteer for the areas you want to be involved in. We're having the lantern parade, the service and dance, the silent auction, the craft booths and the food trucks. The word is out—Mililani Bon Dance is the place to be on Admissions Day weekend. Spread the word and invite your family and friends. Cliff and Stan are awaiting more volunteers.

The nomination committee will be seeking candidates for the Temple Board of Directors. The next few years leading to our 50th Anniversary in 2027 is the time to determine where Mililani will go in the next 50 years.

Book 2 of A New Temple for Mililani, written and published by Rev. Kojun Suehira has arrived and we will begin distributing the books. Come to temple to get your copy. If you did not receive Book 1, a few copies may be available in our library. Rev. Suehira wants to hear from you, his email contact is in the new book so get your copy early. We will be asking you to help distribute the books for those unable to come to temple.

Gassho, June Asato

Q1. Where did Mililani Hongwanji obtain the Baby Buddha Statue and sweet tea bowl and ladle that we use each year as we celebrate Buddha Day?

We actually have 2 sets. Our first set was a gift to Mililani Hongwanji from Rev. Kojun Suehira on the occasion of his and Yoshie's wedding. The second set was part of a University of Hawaii Celebration which included a bon dance in the area between the East West Center and the Kennedy Theater. The focal display was a hanamido with the baby statue and since Mililani members were on the Buddhist Study Center Committee planning the event funding was provided by the sponsors and the hanamido and statue were given to the Kapolei Buddhist Sangha after the event. When Kapolei closed down the hanamido and statue were given back to Mililani.

Q2. In which month, year will Mililani Hongwanji observe 50 years since its establishment? March 2027

No prize awarded since no one submitted answers. There will be no more questions since there seems to be little interest.



June Asato

Summary of April 12, 2023

Kyodan Board Meeting

- The Mililani Hongwanji Board of Directors met via ZOOM with a quorum. President June Asato presided.
- Treasurer's Report: Cliff Togo distributed March's financial report for 2023. Budget amounts were inserted based on the approved budget by the Board from our last meeting. First Quarter HHMH Kyodan assessment was paid. Cost of roof repairs from wind damages will be reflected shortly. Cost to be initially paid from CIP funds subject to insurance reimbursement less deductible.
- Minister's Report: Preparing for Japan trip and coordinating coverage at Mililani Hongwanji while away. Rev. Alan Urasaki will be Mililani and Ewa's contact person for religious emergencies. The Kyodan Scholarship recipient has been selected and informed.
- President's Report: June reported all the activities involved with the community and various units of the Sangha. Kevin Asato will chair the nominating committee. Rev. David Fujimoto will chair the religious services committee, much time was dedicated towards the roof damage and dealing with insurance company. Executive Committee will be in charge while she and the Rev. will be in Japan.
- VP Facilities: Steven Koito's written report—rain and wind damaged the Ed. Bldg roof. After quotes received, repair was scheduled ASAP to prevent further interior damage. Thursday Gang continue to maintain facilities as needed. Concern for fire safety was raised and will be looked into by VP for Facilities.
- VP Religious Prog: Planning in process for baccalaureate service/program. Luncheon & Program will be in the Ed Bldg. Two Mililani HS graduates will be recognized.
- VP Operations: Kevin Asato reported that a Columbarium Manual is being reviewed and updated as needed. Rene Mansho and Janice Yasunaga are the Columbarium co-coordinators. Brandon Hee will manage newsletter mail prep & mailout forms.
- Budget & Finance: Since Dennis Oshita is now chair of the Finance Committee and serving as an unofficial assistant treasurer, it would be a conflict of interest for him to also be an auditor. His resignation as auditor was accepted by the Board. A second auditor is needed.
- BWA: Diane Yoza reports 45th Luncheon celebration on 4/16/23, Scholarship Committee will announce the recipient soon, Ehime Maru Cleanup 4/22/23, Eshinni/Kakushinni Service Offertory to be donated to Jr YBA of Oahu and Ohana Arts.
- Jr. YBA: Preparing for the State Convention in June. Oahu is hosting. They will be helping temples with their Bon Dance. They will be selling drinks again for Mililani's Bon Dance.
- Announcements: Cliff - Bon Dance planning is underway. 1,000 Bon Dance towels arrived from Japan. See flyer in current issue of DC. Many of last year's committee chairs will continue again for this year. Please KOKUA to make the 2023 Bon Dance a big success again.



BWA News



With May just beyond the horizon, several BWA members and their spouses are looking forward to the Shinran Shonin Memorial Service and World BWA Convention. Fellow BWA sisters, Doreen Sakamoto and Robyn Izumi, who currently live on the Mainland, will be joining us, as thousands from South America, the Mainland, Canada, and Hawaii, are expected to gather in Kyoto for this special commemoration. Many will be remaining in Japan after the service to tour Chubu and the Inland Sea, or to Okinawa.

The Mililani BWA celebrated its 45th anniversary on April 16 at its annual spring luncheon at the Mango Street Grill.

What a joyful time we had! In addition to the camaraderie, laughter, and great food, we also learned about "Green Hongwanji" from special guest speaker, Mr. Steve Loehse, who educated us about eco sangha, compostable food waste, and noted emphatically that this "green" action must start with each individual temple. In keeping with the "green theme", the committee gave each member a furoshiki-wrapped bento box, with a reminder that we should be bringing it to the temple to use instead of paper goods.



We send special thanks to Claire Doi for the sweets and to Gayle Nakamura who gifted each attendee with a hand-sewn zippered coin purse.

We recognized three current BWA members who are charter members -- June Asato, Patsy Hiyakumoto, and Nancy Tanaka. June served as the very first president in 1978. Congratulations, ladies!! Thank you for being the pioneers of today's BWA and for continuing your active service to the temple.



The bi-annual Ehime Maru clean-up was held on April 22. Several members joined chairs Debbie Hiyakumoto and Janice Yasunaga at this assignment, and later enjoyed a well-deserved lunch at the Tiny Pyramid Restaurant.

The next BWA meeting will be on May 14 at 10:15 am at the Ed. building. Please make every effort to attend.





Dharma School

Wow, this school year sure did fly by! We are looking forward to the activities for this last month before our summer break.

Our thanks to Dharma School teacher, Stephen Chinen, alias "Sgt. Rainbow" for leading three sessions of the Rainbows in Me lessons. We learned a lot about character building and especially enjoyed the magic tricks!



We also enjoyed the other April lessons--Movie Day watching the animated "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile", doing our Dharma School 101 lesson and booklet, and story time by guest reader Brian Frey.

And "Congratulations" to our Dharma School student, Ty Wakahiro. It was really nice to honor Ty and fellow Mililani High School classmate and Sangha member, Richard Hama-da, at the Baccalaureate service and luncheon on April 30th. The last time we honored graduates was in 2019.



Here is our schedule for the month of May:



Sunday, May 7th, 10am: Dharmachakra Pizza activity

Sunday, May 21st, 10am: Shin-O Bingo with prizes

Sunday, May 28th, Last Day of Dharma School Recognition and Celebration

Please mark your calendars for our Dharma School Year End activities taking place on Sunday, May 28th. We will be recognizing all our Dharma School students with certificates and goodie bags at the end of service. We will also be announcing our poster contest winners and handing out certificates and award prizes. And to top off the end of



the school year celebration, we will be going to the Fun Factory Mililani for lunch and free game cards for the students. Look out for more info coming in our weekly Dharma School family emails.

If you know a student (preschool to high school), in Mililani, Hawaii, or even on the mainland, who would like to join in on our sessions, please contact Claire Doi at clairedoi@hawaiiantel.net to be added to our email list to get our meeting agendas and links. Or please feel to contact us if you have any questions or need more info about our Dharma School sessions.



Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up on May 27th!

By: Tyler Oshiro,
Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

Mark your calendars and make your plans to join our Sangha members for this important community service project! Our second quarter clean-up is coming up on:

Saturday, May 27, 2023

8:00 a.m.

Please arrive at the temple by 8:00 a.m. Please wear covered shoes. Trash bags, gloves, and safety vests will be provided. There will be brief safety review and areas to clean will be assigned. Our temple is assigned to clean the portion of Kamehameha Highway that runs through Mililani.

The clean-up usually runs for about an hour. Upon return to the temple, water, coffee, and breakfast sandwiches will be provided.

This program is a great opportunity to help beautify our community and spent a Saturday morning with members of our Sangha. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at tylerkoshiro@gmail.com.

Joint Memorial Service for May was held on April 2, 2023, due to Minister's travel to Japan.

May Memorials

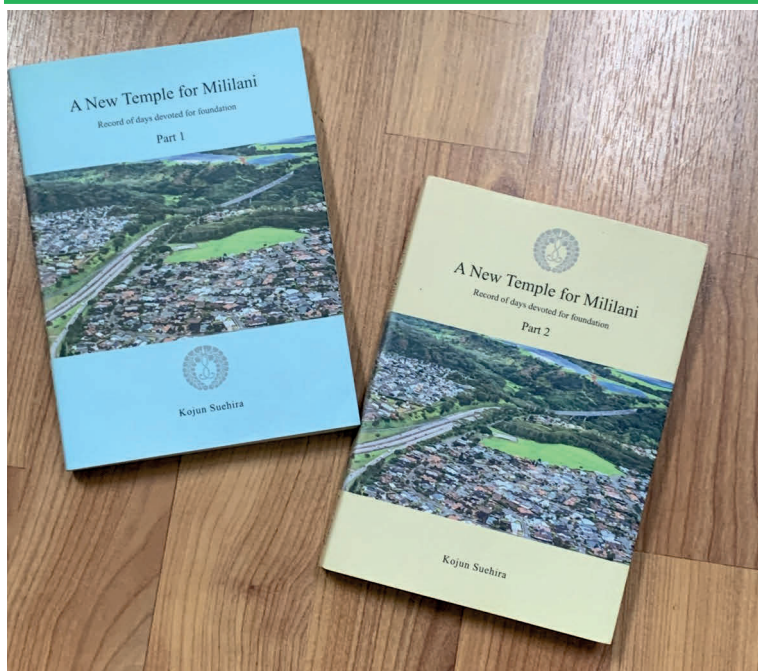
Those who have passed during the month.

Mitsuo Fujimoto
Haruko Gakiya
Shigeo Gakiya
Harold Hanaoka
George Harada
Thomas Hashimoto
Tsunehio Hashimoto
Toku Hayase
Goro Hirano
Amy Horibata
Kenneth Imamura
Ann Kajiwarra
Itsuyo Kaneshiro
Masaru Kido
Lynette Kimoto
Hatsumi Kubota
Marie Meyer

Bert Migita
Gladys Naitoh
Emery Nakashima
Tsurukichi Nakae
Margaret Nishimura
Mitsuko Okinaka
Garrick Okumura
Chester Saito
Toni Suehiro
Zenyei Taira
Michiko Tashima
Bessie Tsuyama
Yoshino Tsuyama
Yeiichi Ukita
Helen Watanuki
Tamotsu Yamaguchi
Shigetoshi Yoshino

Please call the minister at (808) 625-0925 and/or email dharma.connection@gmail.com if there are corrections or additions to the published list. Families may call the minister to schedule special family memorial services for their loved ones. For 2023, special memorial years are observed for loved ones who passed away in:

2022 1st Year	2011 13th Year	1991 33rd year
2021 3rd Year	2007 17th Year	1974 50th year
2017 7th Year	1999 25th year	



HOT OFF THE PRESS

"A NEW TEMPLE FOR MILILANI"

PART 2

By Rev. Kojun Suehira

Pick up your copy at the temple.
See details in President's message.



FYI...



Mililani Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

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 Kyodan Pres: June Asato
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3) download a copy from the temple website: mililanihongwanji.org

For additional information check out our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mililani-Hongwanji-Buddhist-Temple/114271522485>

2023 Temple Board

President-June Asato
 VP Fac.-Stephen Koito
 VP Oper.-Kevin Asato
 VP Rel. Svc./Programs-Brandon Hee
 Secretary-Roger Babcock
 Treasurer-Clifford Togo
 Auditor-Brad Wakahiro
 BWA Rep.-Diane Yoza
 Imm. Past Pres.-Dean Sakamoto
 Directors-Dennis Oshita
 Rene Mansho
 Gay Tanaka
 Janice Yasunaga
 Advisors-Melvin Hayase
 Masami Nishimoto
 Minister-Rev. David Fujimoto

Adult Day Center at Mililani Hongwanji

Aloha! We would like to let everyone know that we are accepting applications for Adult Day Center enrollment. Do you know anyone caring for a loved one that needs respite or help caring for their loved one throughout the day? We are welcoming new clients in our **air conditioned** facility.

For any interested new applicants, we are offering tuition assistance. Please contact our ADC Director Trece Scott for more information at (808) 561-2147. We are OPEN 5 Days a week Monday thru Fridays from 8am-5pm, and early drop off can be arranged beginning at 7am.

Memorial Services

Mililani Hongwanji conducts memorial services in honor of those who have passed away. The Shotsuki Memorial Service is a general memorial service which are held monthly to remember members and friends who passed away during the month in which the memorial service is held. These services are held primarily for those individuals that do not fall in the yearly service interval cycle.

Nenki Hoyo Memorial Services are memorial services which are held separate from the monthly memorial services in yearly intervals. These separate private services can be held before, on or after the memorial dates. It is a personal opportunity to gather as a family to encounter and listen to the Buddha Dharma and remember your family members and friends who have passed on and through these services, we are able to reflect on all that we have received from them in our daily lives. It also gives families the opportunity to reconnect with members they otherwise would not see during the course of the year.

Monthly Joint Memorial Service

Mililani Hongwanji's monthly joint memorial service is on the **SECOND Sunday** of each month. Mililani Hongwanji will continue to publish the names of the members and friends that will be honored in the monthly memorial services.

For families attending the joint memorial service, please sign in on the memorial service tablet on the counter, which will be made available every Sunday leading up the service.

For those who wish to add or remove family members or friends from the published list, please let Rev. Fujimoto know as soon as possible to ensure proper action.

Minister's Private Visitation

Are you unable to come to the temple? Please call Rev. David Fujimoto at 808.625.0925 to request a private visit. The minister would love to reach out to you and be the bridge between you, the temple and the sangha!





Mililani Hongwanji

BON DANCE




August 18 & 19, 2023, Friday & Saturday

August 18, Friday

5:30 p.m. Food Trucks, Country Store, Craft Fair & Silent Auction Opens

6:30 p.m. Lantern Parade

6:55 p.m. Opening Ceremony

7:00 p.m.

to Bon Dance

10:00 p.m.

Country Store

August 13th, Sunday:
9:00 a.m. Obon Service
Hatsubon Service Arranged

Mililani Hongwanji, 95-257 Kaloapau St.
Next to Mililani Rec. Ctr. III, No Pets Allowed.
For more info call 625-0925 or
www.mililanihongwanji.org

August 19, Saturday

5:30 p.m. Food Trucks, Country Store, Craft Fair & Silent Auction Opens

6:55 p.m. Opening Ceremony

7:00 p.m.

to

10:00 p.m.

Bon Dance

Silent Auction

Bon Dance Practice:
Aug 1, 8, 14, 15, 16
(7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)
Subject to Change



Silent Auction

We are so grateful that all of our volunteers of the Silent Auction Committee have once again endeavored (or, as the dictionary says, "to try hard") to use their time and energy to produce the very popular Silent Auction as part of the Bon Dance festivities. The Sangha's consistent help and support will make it happen.

Through your continued help and support of donations of gift certificates, new or like new household goods, furniture, plants, and the like, we can all make this a successful fundraiser. Please take a look around your home or office as you downsize and consider a donation.

We'll be having our very first inventory meeting on Sunday, June 11th after service so you can bring your items in then.

If you've got a small business, consider a donation and in exchange having a few hundred customers become familiar with your business name. We appreciate your support in advance. And, a shout out to Ewa Hongwanji, who donated many valuable dishes to the cause.

In Gassho,
Charijean Watanabe 808-223-6077 chariyejan@aol.com.



Redesigned Bon Dance Towel

When folded properly, the word "MILILANI" will rest on the back collar visibly around the neck.

The two round logos will be facing the front in the upright position like below.



Mahalo for your DANA

(March 17, 2023 – April 13, 2023)

Funeral

Marisa Tsuhako

Funeral service for Clyde Oshiro



General Donation

Anonymous

Mililani Crafters

Mililani Hongwanji Bon Dancercise Class (2)

James & Karen Nakasone

Hanamatsuri Service

Christine Sato & Richard Lightner

Janet Abe

June Asato

Roger & Jill Kyhos Babcock

Claire Doi

Richard & Joyce Fujimoto

Myra Fujino

Luana Fukutomi

Warren & Nora Hahn

Melvin Hayase

Debra Hiyakumoto

Karl & Carol Ann Kakehi

Sharon Kaneko

Higan Spring Service

Christine Sato & Richard Lightner

Janet Abe

June Asato

Roger & Jill Kyhos Babcock

Claire Doi

Richard & Joyce Fujimoto

Warren & Nora Hahn

Melvin Hayase

Sharon Kaneko

Mamoru & Ethel Kawahara

Masami & Joyce Nishimoto

Joint Memorial Service (April & May)

Christine Sato & Richard Lightner

Trudy Akamine

Michie Ando

June Asato

Twila Castellucci

Melvin Hayase

Debra Hiyakumoto

Mamoru & Ethel Kawahara

Lawrence & Joyce Nishioka

Dennis & Michele Oshita

Carol Saito

Margaret Tanabe

Annie Tanaka

Diane Yoza

Hanamatsuri Service —Continued

Mamoru & Ethel Kawahara

Dennis & Carrie Kawamoto

Masami & Joyce Nishimoto

Lawrence & Joyce Nishioka

Lester & Joyce Ogawa

Frances Saito

Aileen Sato

Charles & June Shimata

Margaret Tanabe

Clifford Togo

Gordon & Lyn Watanabe

Diane Yoza

Higan Spring Service—Continued

Lawrence & Joyce Nishioka

Lester & Joyce Ogawa

Patrick & Susan Oshiro

Charles & June Shimata

Richard & Gail Taira

Margaret Tanabe

Nancy Tanaka

Gordon & Lyn Watanabe

Ethel Yamashige

Diane Yoza



IMO Ronald Minoru & Beatrice Sato

IMO Toku Hayase

IMO George Ando & Susumu Ando

IMO Tsuruko Asato

IMO Marie Meyer

IMO Toku Hayase

IMO Larry Hiyakumoto

IMO Masanobu Kawahara & Itsuyo Kaneshiro

IMO Makoto Nishioka

IMO Shigeru Oshita & Benson Yamanaka

IMO Chester Saito

IMO Bessie & Yoshino Tsuyama & Nancy Hirata

IMO Benson Yamanaka

IMO Anna Nakamura

Photo Gallery





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NEWSLETTER

May 2023

Calendar

May	25 (Thu)	9:00 am	Before service clean-up
	28 (Sun)	11:00 am	Monthly Service

Obon Fundraiser ~ Saturday, June 17, 2023 ~ 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

President's Message

Aloha. I am very fortunate to be going on a trip to Japan with the church next month. After almost a year of uncertainty, the day is approaching fast. But I feel anxiety is building up in me. Is there such a thing as a traveling wardrobe? The weather? I'm not worried about the food. Here is a guy that wears shorts, tee shirts, and slippas 365 days a year. I just need to be sure I have enough BVD's and plastic bags. Procrastination is in my blood. What type of person are you?

The Board has finally decided to have a fundraiser on Saturday, June 17, 2023. A live Bon Dance is still out of reach for us. Stay tuned for more information. We are reaching out to you for your kokua - please come out and give us a hand.

Have a good everyday, everybody.

In Gassho,

Craig T. Tsutsumi



Mahalo for your Donations

Higan-e Service

Abe, Jean
Iwata, Caran
Nohara, Myra
Wakimura, Rae
Wakimura, Ruth
Yoshioka, Arnold

Hanamatsuri Service

Iwata, Caran

General

Sawamoto, Michael
Wakimura, Ruth ~ In memory of Mrs. Namie Iwata

Rev. David Fujimoto's office hours at Ewa Hongwanji ~ Thursdays 9:00 am-11:00 am.

You may also contact him at 808-625-0925 (Mililani Hongwanji Office) or leave a message on Ewa Hongwanji's voicemail at 808-681-5222.

Keep informed of what's happening at Ewa Hongwanji - <https://bit.ly/3bKGt2f>